

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 124419 TOSEC 130086

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S:RAHERNE

S/S:O:DLMACK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124419 TOSEC 130086

EXDIS

FOL RPT CONAKRY 1007 ACTION SECSTATE INFO FREETOWN MONROVIA
19 MAY QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1007

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV GV SL

SUBJECT: SEKOU TOURE'S REACTION TO SECRETARY'S STATEMENT OF
AFRICAN POLICY

REF: (A) CONAKRY 0994, (B) MONROVIA 3372

1. MOST OF THE LANGUAGE USED BY SEKOU TOURE IN HIS
MAY 15 SPEECH (REFTEL A) WAS IDENTICAL TO THAT IN HIS
LETTER TO TOLBERT (REF B). THAT TOURE SHOULD HOLD
SUCH VIEWS AND STATE THEM PUBLICLY IS A REMARKABLE
AND POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT. I RECOMMEND THAT SECRETARY
SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE
WITH SEKOU TOURE AND DESPATCH PERSONAL
AND CONFIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO HIM ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:
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BEGIN DRAFT MESSAGE;

2. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

PRESIDENT TOLBERT HAS INFORMED ME OF YOUR LETTER TO HIM REGARDING MY VISIT TO YOUR CONTINENT AND MY STATEMENTS IN LUSAKA AND MONROVIA OF UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD AFRICA. AMBASSADOR HARROP HAS ALSO REPORTED TO ME ABOUT YOUR SPEECH IN CONAKRY ON THE OCCASION OF THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GUINEAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHEN YOU PUBLICLY EXPRESSED THESE SAME VIEWS.

3. I AM GRATIFIED BY YOUR CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS ABOUT US POLICY. I AGREE WITH YOU THAT "THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, FULL AND COMPLETE FREEDOM, THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO DISPOSE OF THEMSELVES, THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO THE FREE CHOICE OF THEIR REGIME, IS AN INDEFEASIBLE AND UNCONDITIONAL RIGHT." YOUR ELOQUENT FORMULA RECALLS THE WORDS OF OUR OWN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, WRITTEN JUST 200 YEARS AGO: "WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT: THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL, THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN INALIENABLE RIGHTS, THAT AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS-- THAT TO SECURE THESE RIGHTS GOVERNMENTS ARE INSTITUTED AMONG MEN, DERIVING THEIR JUST POWERS FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED..."

4. WE HAVE AN OLD SAYING IN THE UNITED STATES: "ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS". I HOPE THAT MY GOVERNMENT CAN CONSULT WITH YOU AS WE WORK TOGETHER FOR THE EARLY COMPLETE DECOLONIZATION AND LIBERATION OF AFRICA. IN THIS WAY, AS YOU SUGGEST, AFRICA WILL NOT HAVE TO RESORT TO "DEADLY WEAPONS" AND WILL NOT HAVE TO RUN THE RISK OF SEEING ONE FORM OF OUTSIDE DOMINATION REPLACED BY ANOTHER. AS YOU SO WISELY STATE, AFRICA'S PROBLEMS CONCERN AFRICANS FIRST AND FOREMOST AND SHOULD BE RESOLVED BY AFRICANS.

5. I HOPE I CAN LOOK FORWARD TO OBTAINING YOUR COUNSEL ON THESE
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IMPORTANT QUESTIONS FROM TIME TO TIME, AND I AM HONORED THAT YOU HAVE WRITTEN TO OUR FRIEND PRESIDENT TOLBERT ABOUT MY VISIT TO AFRICA.

6. PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, THE ASSURANCE OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END DRAFT LETTER.
HARROP UNQUOTE
ROBINSON

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